

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A support structure for supporting a rear portion of a patient transport cart, comprising:

 a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member and having a top, bottom, and middle section;

 a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal axis while supporting the main body assembly; and

 an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient transport cart.

2. (Original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the support structure is removably attachable by the main body attaching means.

3. (Original) The support structure of claim 2, wherein the main body attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly at the first end and having a mating portion at the second end, wherein said mating portion is adapted to

be inserted into a receiving means attached to the member of the patient transport cart and be removably secured therein by a securing means of the mating portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The support structure of claim 3, wherein the main body attaching means comprises two diagonal support members each having the **[[a]]** mating portion and being attached to the main body assembly at the middle section.

5. (Original) The support structure of claim 3, wherein the securing means of the mating portion includes a spring loaded retractable button.

6. (Original) The support structure of claim 3, wherein the securing means of the mating portion includes a removable pin.

7. (Original) The support structure of claim 2, wherein the main body attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly at the first end and having clamping means at the second end, wherein said clamping means are adapted to clamp on to the member of the patient transport cart and be removably secured thereto.

8. (Original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the main body assembly comprises an upper member and a lower member, said upper and lower members telescopingly cooperating under control of a height adjustment means.

9. (Original) The support structure of claim 8, wherein the height adjustment means comprises a knob connected to a threaded shaft adapted to thread through an interior of the upper member and apply force to the lower member, wherein turning the knob threads the threaded shaft through the interior of the upper member and applies the force to the lower member to thereby adjust a height of the support structure.

10. (Original) The support structure of claim 9, wherein the height adjustment means further comprises a crank handle attached to the knob.

11. (Original) The support structure of claim 8, wherein the height adjustment means comprises a ratcheting type height adjustment.

12. (Original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly comprises two wheels attached to each other via a common member, the common member being attached to the bottom of the main body assembly.

13. (Original) The support structure of claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly is rotatably connected to the bottom of the main body assembly through a swivel pin, such that the wheel assembly rotates about a vertical axis.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The support structure of claim 1,~~ A support structure for supporting a rear portion of a patient transport cart, comprising:

a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member and having a top, bottom, and middle section;

a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal axis while supporting the main body assembly; and

an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient transport cart;

wherein the main body attaching means comprises a hinged connection between the main body assembly and the member of the patient transport cart, said hinged connection oriented such that the support structure can be folded forward from the vertical rear proximate position to a horizontal position adjacent to an underside of the patient transport cart.

15. (Original) A patient transport cart having a support structure for supporting a rear portion of the patient transport cart, the support structure comprising:

a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member and having a top, bottom, and middle section;

a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal axis while supporting the main body assembly; and

an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient transport cart.

16. (Original) The support structure of claim 15, wherein the support structure is removably attachable by the main body attaching means.

17. (Original) The support structure of claim 16, wherein the main body attaching means comprises at least one support member having first and second ends, the support member being attached to the main body assembly at the first end and having a mating portion at the second end, wherein said mating portion is adapted to be inserted into a receiving means attached to the member of the patient transport cart and be removably secured therein by a securing means of the mating portion.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The support structure of claim 15,~~ A patient transport cart having a support structure for supporting a rear portion of the patient transport cart, the support structure comprising:

a main body assembly comprising at least one vertical tubular member and having a top, bottom, and middle section;

a wheel assembly comprising at least one wheel, the wheel assembly attached to the bottom of the main body assembly by a wheel attaching means, wherein the at least one wheel is oriented to rotate about a horizontal axis while supporting the main body assembly; and

an attaching means for attaching the main body assembly to a member of the patient transport cart proximate to the rear portion of the patient transport cart;

wherein the main body attaching means comprises a hinged connection between the main body assembly and the member of the patient transport cart, said

hinged connection oriented such that the support structure can be folded forward from the vertical rear proximate position to a horizontal position adjacent to an underside of the patient transport cart.

19. (Original) The support structure of claim 15, wherein the main body assembly comprises an upper member and a lower member, said upper and lower members telescopingly cooperating under control of a height adjustment means.

20. (Original) The support structure of claim 19, wherein the height adjustment means comprises a knob connected to a threaded shaft adapted to thread through an interior of the upper member and apply force to the lower member, wherein turning the knob threads the threaded shaft through the interior of the upper member and applies the force to the lower member to thereby adjust a height of the support structure.